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THE KENYON COLLEGIAN

Gambier, Ohio

Thursday, August 25, 2005

4 Pages

Changes rock the Kenyon bookstore

BY KIRSTEN REACH
Features Editor

As students return to campus, they are finding major changes at the bookstore. Over this summer, the College Bookstore rearranged displays, moved furniture and discontinued the CD section.

In addition to the physical differences, the bookstore has changed some policies and now requires students to show their Kenyon IDs in order to use their student accounts. These changes are the first steps of a project the bookstore plans to complete over several years.

Elements from the print shop will be moved into the bookstore; posters and other materials will soon be accessible long after the print shop closes each night; and McConnell plans to expand the apparel section as well.

According to David McConnell, Kenyon's new Chief Business Officer, the bookstore should serve two roles: that of a business and that of a community center. The bookshop's new arrangement is intended to help it carry out both functions and be more inviting.

The posters that covered windows last year have been taken out; and Kenyon-related books and a cardboard cutout of

President Georgia Nugent are now in the front.

Denise Justice, a bookstore employee, said that "space [is now] opened up in the front" so students can sit and read or chat. McConnell adds, "People can look in and out," which encourages interaction within the community and provides space to enjoy literature.

The children's tower was added to draw children to the books, but until the chairs were added to the front, there was little space for children and parents to read together.

Kenyon authors' books and books by recent speakers are now located at the front of the bookstore. In order to make room for these shelves, the bookstore will no longer carry CDs, which comprised less than one percent of the store's profit anyway, according to McConnell. CDs are still available through special orders. The remaining CDs are currently for sale at 50% off.

McConnell said the bookstore was not rearranged while students were off-campus to keep them from having a say in the changes. Instead, he said, the summer is the store's slowest season, making it easier to rearrange then.

"We want lots of student input," McConnell said. He was en-

thusiastic about the bookstore advisory committee within Kenyon's student government.

"We are part of the community for students and local residents in Gambier and the surrounding area," he said. "We want a conversation between students and the store. We're looking forward to having students back to have that conversation."

The goal of the changes, according to McConnell, is to "modernize elements of the bookstore without Barnes and Noble-

izing it."

McConnell expressed enthusiasm for "intentional cool things" such as book signings, readings and a dry cleaning service.

The bookstore of McConnell's previous employer, Washington and Lee University, has twenty-two book signings per year. Last year the Kenyon Bookstore had none.

McConnell is also trying to connect with a dry cleaning service in Mount Vernon that

would allow students to drop off and pick up their clothing at the bookstore.

"We're just going to kind of listen to people and see what they think," said Jack Finefrock, manager of the Kenyon Bookstore. "It's been a long time since we changed the bookstore, and it seemed like we were sort of stuck. But now we're unstuck."

"We have to do this at a pace that allows us to experiment," explained McConnell. "It's a constant work in progress."



Steve Klise

Books by Kenyon speakers and Kenyon authors are now at the front of the bookstore, along with the New York Times bestsellers.

The shifting faces of Res Life

Office of Res Life open to change with new assistant directors

BY WILLOW BELDEN
Editor-in-Chief

After a turbulent spring semester in which three Resident Advisors, as well as both residential life Area Coordinators left their positions, the Office of Residential Life is gearing up for a new academic year with many new faces and some changes in procedures and policies.

Nicole Ray and Johni Amos, both graduates of Kent State University, have been hired as Assistant Directors of Residential Life. According to Dean of Residential Life George Barbuto, the Assistant Directors have a variety of responsibilities, including training and supervising the student staff of residential life, serving as officers in judicial hearings and collaborating with the office of student activities on certain affairs.

Although Barbuto, Ray and Amos said they are not instituting new policies in residential life at present, student

staff members have pointed to several areas of change. Most prominently, CAs are now required to do "rounds" when they are on duty, during which they tour all residences in their half of campus.

Furthermore, several student staffers noted that they are expected to be more diligent this year about documenting any incidents they see around campus.

According to Barbuto, "RAs and CAs were always supposed to document stuff that happens. We're stressing that now."

"We're examining what happens in residence life now and just building on that—trying to make it stronger," Amos said. "We're reinforcing some things that should have been happening to begin with."

Ray agreed, saying she hopes for constructive feedback from the student staff about the way residential life is run at Kenyon.

Ray and Amos are replacing Jessica Cheatwood-Alvarez and Colette Noe, who formerly held the positions of "Area Coordinators." Not only has the job title changed this year; the job descriptions are different too.

Under the old system, Cheatwood-Alvarez was responsible for overseeing RAs and all matters concerning first-year residences, and Noe was in charge of the Community Advisors, who are the equivalent of RAs for upperclass dorms. Now, Ray and Amos split the residences equally, each dealing with a certain number of first-year residences and a certain number of upperclass residences.

According to Barbuto, the old system "was disproportionate because there are more RAs than CAs." Moreover, Barbuto said, "It was a lot easier for people in the professional positions to say, 'That's not really

see RES LIFE, page two

Early e-mail access for first-years raises concern

BY DAYNE BAUGHMAN
Senior News Editor

Big changes have occurred in how Kenyon students, especially first-years, communicate via e-mail.

This year the College assigned Kenyon e-mail addresses to all incoming students at the beginning of June. In years past, students have not received their College-assigned e-mail addresses until they arrived on campus, or shortly before.

According to Director of Information Services Ron Griggs, the change was made so that incoming students would be better able to communicate with College personnel and each other over the summer. "If [incoming students] have questions—if they want to find out about things from the housing office or admissions ... then they have an easy path to do that," Griggs said.

This year also marks the

first year that incoming students will have the choice, as soon as they arrive on campus, not to receive allstu e-mails.

"For almost twelve years," said Systems Manager Sasha Alblovatski, "the allstu was a list that every student had to be on automatically." All classes up to the class of 2008 automatically received allstu e-mails and could not be excluded from the list. This changed September 9, 2004, though, when students were first permitted to unsubscribe from the allstu list.

Unlike last year when, according to Alblovatski, the allstu list excluded incoming students until they arrived on Kenyon's campus, some first-year

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"Pre-o" introduces first-years to service

BY CHARLOTTE NUGENT
Editor-in-Chief

Sitting across the street from the abandoned Buckeye Candy and Tobacco factory in downtown Mount Vernon on Wednesday, Amy Thurber '07 squinted. "My eyes are killing me right now," she said.

Geoff Bollier '09 hastened to explain. "We tore out a ceiling from the '50s, and dust got in our lungs," he said. "I'm just glad to have a break right now."

This is not cruel new form of freshman hazing. While their soon-to-be peers were at home packing and saying final goodbyes, 24 members of the class of 2009 were already in Gambier this week, ripping out weeds and ceilings alike as part of Habitat for Humanity's first-year pre-orientation program.

This year, however, the program's participants were not limited to putting up drywall and building sidewalks. They could be found cleaning the "cat rooms" at the Humane Society and even having a go at the Buckeye building as it is prepped to become a community kitchen and local foods warehouse.

"Unless there's a blitz build, there isn't enough work for 30 people at the small Knox County Habitat," said Amy Thurber '07, one of the program's student leaders. "It's expanded to a more community-service, getting-to-know-Knox-County type of thing."

The newly minted first-years who are participating in the "pre-o," as it is affectionately called, seem to enjoy the variety.

"I like Habitat a lot, but there's only so much you can do when a house is almost finished," said Tim Hirsch '09. "Some places have known our names before we arrived. ... It hasn't been disorganized at all."

The program is student-run and was inspired by a similar and now-defunct first-year pre-orientation program. "There used to be a backpacking pre-orientation and for some reason, it ended," said Thurber. "The Habitat pre-o took its place 4 years ago."

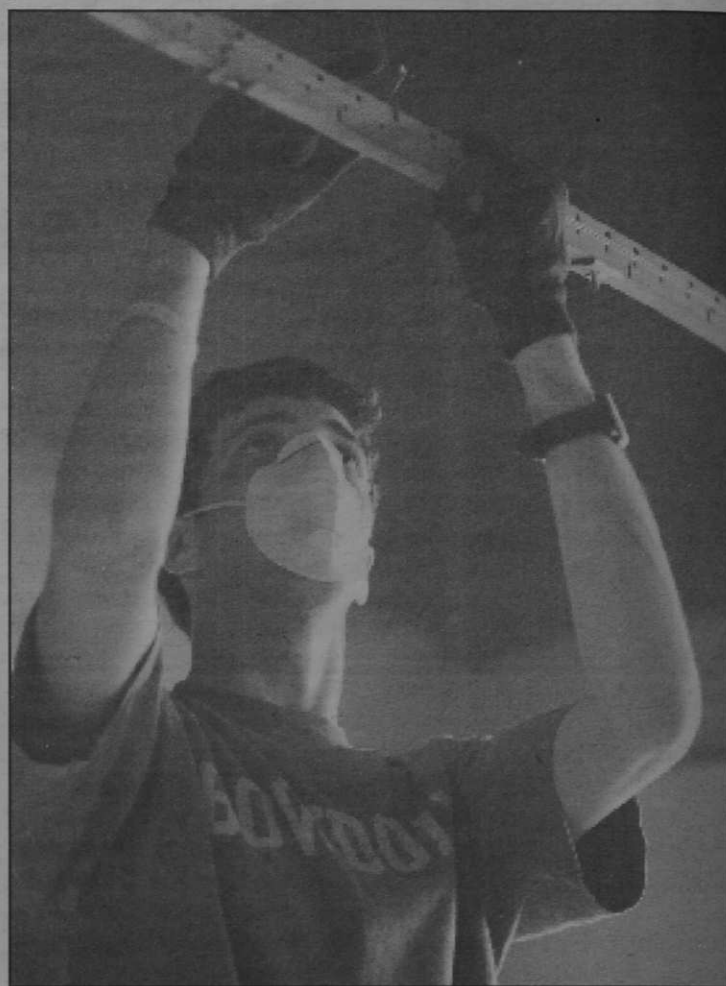
Thurber said that the program's success has convinced many students of the need for more programs like it. "I think there are definitely enough service opportunities to create a second program that would run at the same time, and we could

have twice as many freshmen," said Thurber. "Everyone who does this program really likes the opportunity to get adjusted to Kenyon."

Many first-years chose to participate for just that reason. "I feel much more prepared for regular orientation to start than I would have without pre-o," said Risa Griffin '09. "I was able to get through a lot of the scary stuff, moving in, missing my friends and family...in a much smaller setting, and with a lot more guidance. ... It has especially helped to have the pre-o leaders here to answer questions."

Many also said that they hope to continue volunteering in Knox County and mentioned understaffed organizations such as the Humane Society. "There are so many hard-working people far outnumbered by cats, laundry, repairs, etc., that its greatest need is volunteers," said Colleen McLellan '09. "And what better to do than walk dogs and play with kittens?"

Perhaps there are sometimes better things than playing with kittens. "A cat crapped all over me at the Humane Society yesterday," said Hirsch. "It was awful. I came home feeling like a new man, I'll tell you that."



Steve Klise

Jon Thorndike, a first-year student, takes down a ceiling in the abandoned Buckeye Candy and Tobacco factory in downtown Mount Vernon as part of the Habitat "pre-o."

Res Life: New faces

Res Life: Who are they?

Nicole Ray

Nicole Ray majored in secondary education at Kent State University, with a concentration in language arts. She stayed at Kent State for graduate school, where she studied higher education and student personnel. She had graduate assistantships in orientation and Greek life, and did internships in residential life before coming to Kenyon.

Johni Amos

Johni Amos is from Dayton, Ohio and attended Ohio Northern for undergraduate school, where she majored in sociology and criminal justice, with minors in psychology and religion. She obtained her masters degree in higher education and student personnel at Kent State University before serving as a residence director at Westminster College.



Steve Klise

The new Assistant Directors of Residential Life are Nicole Ray (left) and Johni Amos (right).

CONTINUED from page one

my area; I don't want to deal with that."

Furthermore, Barbuto said the new system is designed to build togetherness between RAs and CAs, something he said has been lacking in the past.

Another change this year is the location of the assistant directors. Ray and Amos are living in Mount Vernon, because the on-campus apartments formerly allocated to Cheatwood-Alvarez and Noe had to be used for stu-

dent housing, due to the size of the student body.

Ray and Amos both said that they are enjoying Kenyon so far. "It's a great community," said Ray. "You get to know people pretty quickly. ... Everybody has been really great and helpful with our transition. So far it has been great."

Barbuto said he is very pleased with Ray and Amos, and that they are bringing "youthful exuberance and energy to the department."

E-mail: Allstu displays campus' positive, negative

CONTINUED from page one

students were able to use the subscribe function to receive and, in some cases send allstu e-mails over the summer.

The class of 2009 was not formally introduced to the allstu until Tuesday, August 23, when Griggs sent an e-mail introducing this "unique aspect of Kenyon culture" to the incoming students. In the e-mail he introduced the students to both the positive and negative aspects of the allstu.

"On any given day ... the list can be a display of the best of Kenyon's rich tradition of civil discourse, [but] messages can be offensive or distasteful, debates can degenerate into name calling, and groups desperate for your attendance at their events can bombard you with repeated ads."

The offensive and distasteful language that Griggs speaks of in his e-mail is a source of concern to College administrators. The student handbook specifically prohibits such language. Ablovatski believes that moderating the language in allstu is difficult, as it necessitates balancing the "free speech rights of the students and the College handbook."

However, Griggs pointed out that the procedures are

in place for language that is reported as offensive. He points out that what is and is not offensive is very subjective and is "all about personal reaction," and that the administration has no plans to make the allstu a moderated messenger board like student-info.

Griggs also pointed out in the e-mail that the sheer number of allstus can be overwhelming. "In a typical day you get 50 messages," he said. However, the 50-message average can be misleading because, as Griggs pointed out, weekends are slow, averaging 20-30 messages a day.

The volume of e-mails was a big concern, according to Ablovatski, especially as it pertains to first years. "[Students] do not delete ... messages, [thinking] they will read them later, and [students] have three, four or five thousand messages."

According to Griggs the College has discussed the idea of allstus with many other school—schools as Oberlin and Denison—none of which have anything like the allstu. In fact many of them think that the idea is, as Griggs put it, "crazy." Despite other schools' response, Griggs believes "[The allstu] is a unique part of the Kenyon Community ... [that] I can't imagine losing."

Connect to people, not computers

staff editorial

Two years ago, as the first-year class arrived on campus, Kenyon was hit by a computer virus. For several days, the network in all the residence halls was shut off. To complicate matters, a violent storm struck one evening during orientation, and the whole campus lost power.

We complained about the inconvenience of the situation, of course, but the experience was actually wonderful in a way. Our RAs herded us back to our residence halls, and we took out flashlights and sat in the dark hallways, talking, laughing, singing songs, playing guitars, watching movies on laptops until the batteries ran out and listening to the legendary Kenyon ghost stories.

It was a powerful bonding experience; many freshman halls became extremely close-knit, and many of the students became fast friends.

Last year during first-year orientation, the power stayed on. The internet worked. First-year students went to their orientation activities. They attended the mandatory hall meetings. They became acquainted with one another.

But many students spent a lot of time in their rooms, glued to their computers. They e-mailed their friends at home; they chatted on instant messenger; they played computer games. As a result, the first-year dorms somehow lacked the cohesiveness of the previous year.

We're not proposing that Kenyon shut off the power or the network connections in the dorms during orientation this year. But we urge the incoming class to use the next few days to their advantage.

Don't spend all your time talking with friends and family at home. Instead, go out and meet people here. Make friends. Explore the campus. Participate in social events. Bike the Kokosing Gap Trail. Get coffee at Middle Ground. Play frisbee on the freshman quad. Have exciting conversations until the wee hours of the morning. Make Kenyon your home.

The office of admissions claims that you are the best class ever, so take advantage of orientation to get to know Kenyon and your fellow classmates, and make this the best year ever. Welcome to Kenyon!

THE KENYON COLLEGIAN

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Orientation Schedule

Thursday, August 25

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Registration

2:00 p.m.

Opening Convocation (reception on Cromwell Cottage lawn to follow)

5:30 p.m.

Dinner with UCCs

7:00 p.m.

Meet with faculty advisors

8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Creative Dating with David Coleman

10:15 p.m. - 11:15 p.m.

Hall Meeting 1

11:30 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

Residential area events

Sunday, August 28

11:00 a.m.

Bagel brunch at Hillel House

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

College Close-Up forum, Peirce Lounge

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

"Meet Knox County" - trips to environmental center and farm, Crozier Center

5:30 p.m.

All-college picnic, Ransom lawn

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Campus cabaret, Rosse Hall

10:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Open mic at the Horn Gallery



Friday, August 26

8:15 - 9:50 a.m.

Foreign language exams

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Academic Department Fair

11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Lunch

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch for students interested in math and science, Lower Dempsey

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Academic Department Fair continues

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Math readiness/placement exams

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Music theory/music history exams

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Pre-professional advising, Ascension

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Shabbat Eve, Hillel House

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Picnic on freshman quad

6:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Athletes' meeting, Gund lounge

7:00 p.m.

First-Year Sing rehearsal, Rosse

7:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Life on the Hill forum, Rosse Hall

9:15 p.m. - 10:15 p.m.

Meeting on diversity, Rosse Hall

10:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Hall Meeting 2

11:45 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

Comedy and pizza, Gund Commons

Saturday, August 27

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Faculty advisor appointments and course registration

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Computer account information with UCCs

11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Poster sale, Black Box building

11:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Lunch

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Faculty advisor appointments and course registration

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Computer account registration with UCCs

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Sporting Life, Ernst Center

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

REACH info session, Snowden

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Academic Integrity meeting, Rosse

5:30 p.m.

Convening dinner, Peirce Hall

7:45 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Sexual misconduct forum with Katie Koestner, Rosse Hall

9:45 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Hall Meeting 3

11:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

Luau on the freshman quad.

11:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

Bowling in Mount Vernon

Kenyon sports teams gear up for a new year

Football coach predicts successful season

BY JESSE OPPENHEIM
Sports Editor

"In the past, not a lot of people have come to watch our games; people only want to watch a winning team; fans want a good product," said football Head Coach Ted Stanley. "This year we have a good product. We improved on all fronts: offense, defense, and special teams. We're going to be an exciting team to watch."

This year, the Lords are led by Casey McConnell, a fifth year senior, who missed last year due to a knee injury; Alby Coombs, a junior, who, according to Stanley could break Kenyon's all-time rushing record as early as the second game of the year; and sophomore quarterback Rafael Sanchez, whose skills "grew immensely" last year under the tutelage of alumnus Nick Stalick.

Stanley also cites the defensive line as a new source of excitement, "They're really going to be something to watch," he said. Additionally, all of last year's wide receivers—Phelipe Johnson '08, Carlin Shoemaker '07 and Teddy Bowman '07—have returned with increased experience and are all excited to play.

Stanley hopes that this year more fans will come down to watch the Lords play. "I feel like people, instead of sitting in their rooms on a Saturday afternoon, will come cheer for us," he said. "The guys down on the field would appreciate it."

Stanley is also trying to bring in fans from Mount Vernon. "We've done a lot of work to get them interested. We're in a football loving area, and I think that they would like to come watch us play."



Steve Klise

Amy Kessler '07 passes downfield to her team mates during a scrimmage.

Former Wittenberg coach to lead Lords soccer

BY JESSE OPPENHEIM
Sports Editor

"I'm trying to build a soccer culture," said Chris Brown, the new Lords soccer coach.

Brown began coaching at Wittenberg in 1988, where he became acquainted with the NCAC and Kenyon soccer. "I coached against some of the Kenyon teams of the 80s and 90s," Brown said. "I have a very clear vision of the style of soccer we will need to play and the type of athlete we will need to develop in order to boost the program back to that high level."

Brown later left for Ohio Northern University, where he spent three years. After two years of coaching Division I Soccer at Marquette University, Brown is taking the place of Des Lawless, who stepped down

after leading the Lords to a 3-16 record.

In his first year at Kenyon, Brown's goals are to improve recruiting, with an emphasis on students from Eastern states; to improve alumni relations, hoping that they will contribute to the program; and, of course, to win more games.

Senior captain Dave Palchak says he is optimistic about having a new coach. "I think the change will spur the team," he said. He added that the 19 returning players have worked hard over the summer and will do well with a coach "who knows how to win."

The Lords return to the field this year having lost only three players to graduation. Says Palchak, "All the guys are excited to be returning, and we can't wait to get out and play."

Cross country team is a "fun bunch"

BY JESSE OPPENHEIM
Sports Editor

"We're hoping to continue the consistency," said Christina McNamara, senior captain of Ladies cross country team. McNamara, who led the team last year, finished 94th out of 215 runners at the Division III nationals.

"We had a good year last year," McNamara said. "We just need to keep that momentum going."

Last year, the Lords won the NCAC title, while the Ladies

took third place. "A team has to take at least second place to advance to the nationals," McNamara said. "We fell short last year, but we're really set on going to the nationals."

The Lords, of course, want to bring home the NCAC championship again, which would be their fifth in six years. Both teams are coached by Duane Gomez, who last year was voted NCAC Coach of the Year.

The team members are saddened by the loss of last year's seniors, including Tyler Newman,

who led the Lords, and Heather McMillan.

"[McMillan] was the spiritual center of the team," says McNamara. However, replacements have stepped up to fill the void left behind.

"We've gained a bunch of great first-years and upper-classmen who hadn't run with us before," said McNamara. Both teams are excited to hit the trails as soon as possible and spirits are high. As McNamara says, "We're a fun bunch!"

Ladies soccer off to a promising start

BY JESSE OPPENHEIM
Sports Editor

"Everybody's excited!" declared Ladies soccer captain Kait Ross '06, describing the team's outlook for the season.

After defeating Mount Vernon Nazarene College 2-1 in a scrimmage Tuesday, the Ladies are feeling optimistic.

"The Naz is always a tough opponent," said Ross. "The captains, Blair Heiser

['06] and I, were impressed. Everyone stayed composed." The Ladies have several obstacles to overcome this season, including a "really tough schedule."

But Ross trusts her team. "We're going to learn from every game win or lose," she said, "which shouldn't be hard because we're well coached, and we have strong upper-classmen leadership."

The team is coached by Kelly Walters, who is en-

tering her third season as the Ladies head coach. She also spent four years as assistant coach.

Assisting her is Elke Reisdorph. "We're really glad to have them both returning," said Ross.

The team, which went 10-7-1 last year, is putting forward a good face. "We've got a really strong team, everyone is fighting for their position, and our first-years look really promising."

Upcoming Events

courtesy athletics.kenyon.edu

Friday, September 2
Volleyball
Kenyon at Mt. Union
Tournament, 4:00 p.m.

Women's Cross Country
Kenyon at Denison
Festival, 5:30 p.m.

Men's Cross Country
Kenyon at Denison
Festival, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 3
Volleyball
Kenyon at Mt. Union

Women's Soccer
Case Reserve at Kenyon,
1:00 p.m.

Men's Soccer
Kenyon vs. Pitt-
Greensburg, 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 4

Field Hockey
Sewanee at Kenyon
12:00 p.m.

Women's Soccer
John Carroll at Kenyon,
1:00 p.m.

Men's Soccer
Kenyon vs. Lakeland, TBA

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